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RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASHINGTON DC
RUEHIL/VOA ISLAMABAD PK
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RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI
RUEHND/VOA NEW DELHI IN
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
RUEKJCS/DEFINTAGNCY WASH DC
RUFHVOA/VOA MUNICH GE
RUHJFBA/FBIS OKINAWA JA
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CONTROLS
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BODY
SUBJ SU 074 217 226 300 166 432

REF LD151906 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL RUSSIAN 151405--VAVILOV
RELATES DRA PLANE DOWNING, GENEVA TALKS

MOSCOW TV: DRA COMMISSION CONFIRMS AN-26 DOWNED BY STINGER

LD162106

MOSCOW TELEVISION SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1430 GMT 16 SEP 87 LD

((FROM THE "VREMYA" NEWSCAST; MIKHAIL LESHCHINSKIY VIDEO REPORT))

((TEXT)) AS WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED, AN AFGHAN AN-26 TRANSPORT PASSENGER AIRPLANE WAS SHOT DOWN IN THE SKIES OF AFGHANISTAN ON 13 SEPTEMBER. HERE IS OUR CORRESPONDENT MIKHAIL LESHCHINSKIY'S REPORT:

((LESHCHINSKIY, STANDING OPPOSITE LARGE WHITE BUILDING)) THE LATEST TRAGEDY IN THE SKIES OF AFGHANISTAN TURNED OUT TO BE CONNECTED WITH THIS BUILDING IN THE CENTER OF KABUL WHICH HOUSES THE STATE BANK OF AFGHANISTAN. IT WAS FROM HERE THAT A LARGE SUM OF MONEY--SUFFICE TO SAY THAT IT WEIGHED ABOUT 2 TONNES--WAS PUT ON BOARD THE AN-26 PLANE. IT WAS DESTINED PAYMENT FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE AND PEASANTS IN THE PROVINCE KONDUZ. BUT AS THE AIRCRAFT WAS [illegible] DOWN AT KONDUZ [illegible]

Approved for Release
Date FEB 1989

IT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, EVEN THE BLACK BOXES SUFFERED IN THE DISASTER. THEY WERE SMASHED OPEN AND THE INSTRUMENTS AND RECORDING DEVICES WERE DESTROYED BY THE FIRE. HOWEVER, AN AUTHORITATIVE COMMISSION UNDER GENERAL FATTAH HAS COME TO THE UNANIMOUS CONCLUSION THAT THE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY A U.S. STINGER ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE WHICH EXPLODED IN THE RIGHT ENGINE. THIS IS BORNE OUT BY THE NATURE OF THE DAMAGE, THE TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES, AND THE SOUND RECORDING OF A RADIO EXCHANGE WITH GROUND CONTROL. TWENTY-THREE SECONDS BEFORE THE DISASTER THE COMMANDER INFORMED GROUND CONTROL ABOUT THE MISSILE STRIKE. IN THOSE 23 SECONDS THE CREW CONTINUED TO FIGHT FOR THE LIVES OF THE PASSENGERS TRYING TO EXTINGUISH THE BURNING AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, HAVING LOST DIRECTION, IT STRUCK THE GROUND JUST 6 KM FROM THE AIRPORT. SIX MEMBERS OF THE CREW AND NINE PASSENGERS WERE KILLED, INCLUDING TWO WOMEN AND TWO BANK EMPLOYEES WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED THE VALUABLE CARGO.

THE TERROR IN THE SKIES OF AFGHANISTAN, WHICH HAS BEEN UNLEASHED AS A RESULT OF AN INCREASE IN SUPPLIES OF U.S. AND BRITISH ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES TO THE DUSHMANS, HAS THIS YEAR ALONE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 250 COMPLETELY INNOCENT PEOPLE. ((VIDEO CUTS FROM SHOTS OF TRAFFIC GOING PAST BANK TO CLOSE-UP OF THE SHATTERED BLACK BOXES, WITH AFGHAN COLONEL DESCRIBING TO OTHER OFFICERS THE NATURE OF THE DAMAGE))

ADMIN

(ENDALL) 161430 [redacted] 7/0007Z SEP

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